

(12)
(12)

THE
PRETENDER'S
DECLARATION

TRANSPOS'D.

245. h. 16
12

By Mr. ASGILL.

—Ridentem dicere verum
Quis vetat?—



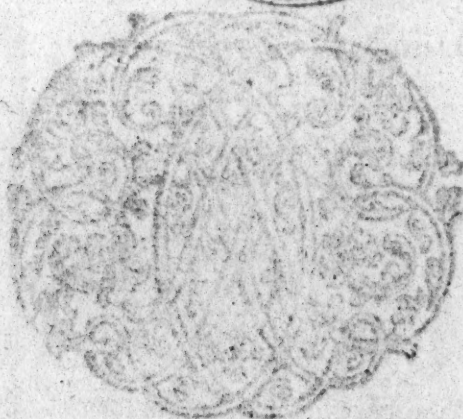
LONDON,

Printed for R. BURLINGH in Amen-Corner.
M.DCC.XVI. Price 3 d.

THE
PRETENDER'S
DECLARATION
TRANSPOS'D.

By Mr. Asgill.

Printed for R. Baskin in Amen-Corner.



LONDON.

Printed for R. Baskin in Amen-Corner.
M.DCC.XVI. Price 3 s.

WITHOUT offence to the Honourable House of Commons) I hope I may borrow an old Story from thence, to make a new Preface of (having none of my own.)

A certain antient Member, upon a Motion made by another Gentleman then sitting in the West-Saxon Corner (there well known) said, That he had sate in that House forty Years, and never heard a good Motion come from that Corner.

Whereupon being called down to Order (as reflecting upon a whole Corner of the House) and demanded to explain himself, he said, That he never heard any good Motion from that Corner, but what he was ready to second.

My Application is shorter than the Story; That I never saw any one of this-same-Pretender's Declarations, but what I was ready to echo.

A 2

And

And tho in my Rehearsal of this (now before me) I have not returned it in the same words in which I received it, yet (if the Truth were known) I have not perverted the Sense (from those genuine Constructions that may easily be put upon it) any further than by transposing the Method of it, in placing those Tests at the top, which in the Declaration lie at the bottom.

His Majesty's

Most Gracious

DECLARATION.

R. James.

JAMES the Eighth of Scotland (and as it seems, likewise the Eighth of) England, France, and Ireland, Defender of our own Faith, &c.

To all our loving Subjects on our side of the *Firth*.

As we have been persuaded to catch at any seeming Opportunity of repeating our Pretences to another's Kingdoms, and getting into any part of the same, as Possession thereof in the Name of the whole:

Which

Which is a Right assumed by us;
That none but Sons of *Belial* dare
deny us:

So must we, and by these Presents under our Sign Manual, we do, from the Fundament of our Heart, declare, That nothing in this World (as we remember) ever gave us so much Satisfaction, as to see (and hear of) so many of our loving Subjects (that would be) hazard their own Lives and Estates, and plunder their Neighbours, on pretence of restoring us to something which we never had, and themselves to something which they never lost; and which alone can deliver this Church (be the same what it will) and this Nation, from those Calamities, which (as they are inform'd) they at present lie under, and such future Miseries which they shall be further inform'd of; as the Consequences of our being kept out of our own by the present Occupant, who hath no other Right to the same, than the Laws of God and Man.

During

During the Life of our dear Sister (by us so call'd) the Happiness which her People enjoy'd under her, harden'd in some measure the Softness of our natural Complexion, from whence we had flatter'd our selves into a Belief of her Intentions to have betray'd her Crown and Kingdoms into our Hands.

But since her Demise thereof, and our Disappointment of then throwing our selves (or falling foul) upon our People (which we fully purpos'd to have done, had we not been happily prevented) we have not been able to look upon the present Condition of our Kingdoms with dry Eyes, nor can (without the Prognostick of an Almanack) foretel the future Events; the very Thoughts whereof have rais'd such a Tumour and Swelling in our Royal Breast, as would stuff the Doublet of any such honest Scotchman as our selves.

We have (to our Confusion and Disappointment) beheld upon the Throne,

A foreign Family (*lineally descended on the Father's Side from Henry the Second,*
and

and on the Mother's from James the First, Kings of England, &c.

Aliens to our Country (as the same Henry the Second, and some other Kings of England were before their Accession to the Throne.)

And from whom we are so far distant in Blood, that it is violently suspected whether there be any Relation between us.

Strangers to our Language (as such of their Ancestors at first were.)

Whereas we have learnt abroad to speak English, pray in Latin, and to say some words in Welsh and Irish (for which we claim the Benefit of the Clergy.)

But what puzzleth and poseth all our Learning and Scholarship, is, that this present Regnant, without such Gift of our Language, hath made himself a little more familiar than welcome with our Manners, intruded into our Cabinets, publish'd our private Conversation, and so intercepted between our Counsels and Attempts, that gives us reason to fear they will both be turn'd in o Foolishness.

We

We also (with the like Disappointment) have seen the Reins of Government taken out of the hands of our *quondam* Friends, and that Authority once design'd by them in our Favour, now confiscated into the hands of those that defame us and our Pretences.

Our said dear Sister hath not been let rest in her Grave, but her Name traduc'd by us and our Adherents, as if she design'd to have renounc'd her own Faith, to make us Head of the Church; whereby the Glory of her Memory (as far as lies in us) hath been defac'd, and some of her faulty Servants (who contributed thereunto) called to account.

A Parliament hath been call'd, by Corruption of Writs of Summons, chosen by the Majority of Electors, return'd by the proper Officers, and assembled and pack'd together in two great Rooms, to serve publick Ends; and they who ought to be the Guardians of the Liberties of the People,

B

are

are become the Impeachers and Prosecutors of the Enemies of their Country.

Whilst the other principal Powers, engag'd in the late War, enjoy the Blessings of the late Peace, and are attentive to discharge their Debts, and ease their People, *Great Britain* in the midst of the same Peace abroad (and Rebellion at home) do (by our Royal Occasion) find it of unavoidable Necessity to raise new Aids and Armies for Defence of the Kingdom ; for which also *Dutch* Forces are brought in, pursuant to our said dear Sister's Treaty of Guaranty for the Protestant Succession against us and our Pretences.

And (what's worse than all the rest) the present Regnant, by taking possession of the Dutchy of *Bremen* (violently purchas'd with his own Mony) hath open'd a Door, by which (upon any other such like innocent Invasion as this of ours now is) his Forces from Abroad may the sooner assist his People

ple at Home, whereby to attach his two little Kingdoms of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and all the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging (as a Province) to his said Great-Dutchy of *Bremen*.

These, with many other, are some few of the *Et-cetera*-real-Evils into which these Kingdoms have bubbled themselves, under pretence of being rescu'd and secur'd from the imaginary Dangers of Arbitrary Power, dispensing with Laws, levying Monys, raising Armies, and quartering Soldiers on the Subject, without Authority of Parliament, and some other such like little Peccadillos and Royal Diversions exercis'd by a late King of our (Christian) Name, and charg'd upon him as an Abdication and Forfeiture of his Crown and Government (being a *Trust*, and not a *Property*.)

And these are such Consequences of the Settlement of the Crown in the next Protestant Line of the Royal Family,

that we have that Charity for those Legislators that made the same, as to believe they were all mad.

Tho we cannot but at the same time observe (with the utmost Dissatisfaction) the Obstinacy of the present Legislators, in the Maintenance and Defence of the same Settlements, and their taking such Measures thereupon, as we fear will rescue these Kingdoms from what might have fallen upon them, had it not been prevented by the Concurrence of some unlucky Causes (*and Discoveries.*)

However, that we may not omit (*the standing Rule of Hypocrisy*) to keep up our Court to Providence, we can't sufficiently admire the extraordinary Methods hinted to us for widening the way to our Pretences, by the late Successes of our Friends in *Lancashire*.

And we most earnestly implore (*our faithful Friend and bumble Servant*) Satan, to continue in some of our Subjects (*that wou'd be*) that Spirit of Envy and Folly, with
with

with which he hath already possess'd them ; and still to infatuate them with all the Vigour and Hopes of Success, which so just and righteous a Cause (as Perjury, Rebellion, Bloodshed and Rapine) ought to inspire them with.

And for their further Encouragement therein, we our selves are at last come to them; with what Monys have been collected from the Popish Seminaries abroad, for the Defence and Security of the Protestant Religion in these Kingdoms, and preserving the Abby-Lands (now in the hands of the Subjects) from ever relapsing to any Regular or Superstitious Uses.

And being thus come to them, we are resolv'd to take our share with them in all such Dangers and Difficulties (as we cannot avoid.)

And in the first place, we do propose to rescue our loving Subjects in the *Highlands* from the Hardships of the late Union (never yet specify'd or regularly complain'd of) by exchanging
the

the same, for the Ruin of their Families, and Desolation of their Country; whereby they will stand restored to their Antient, Free, and Independent State of Nature.

We have before our eyes the Examples of two Kings (to whom we claim Kindred) one of which we would follow, and the other avoid.

For us to be a Martyr,

We think too great a Satyr.

Therefore we have rather chose to resemble our selves to the latter of those Kings; but heartily wish (for our Subjects sakes) that we may not wear out the word *Restoration*, before we come to use it.

He was proscribed, tho he had Right;

And we are proscribed, tho we have none.

He was proscribed by an Usurper;

And we are proscribed by King and Parliament.

Jam sumus ergo pares.

The

Tho were we minded to be spiteful, we know how to retaliate such a Proscription.

But a publick Way of Practice is not the Way of *Our-Church* (*who never bark before they bite.*)

But (for all this) we are still in hope of seeing our own Rights and our own Church once more settled in a Free-Independent (*have a care of Presbyterian*) Scots-Parliament.

To such a Parliament (which we will immediately *make*, and for which we have already created Lords and Bishops) we will intirely refer our own and their Interests (which when rightly understood, are always the same.)

However, to prevent any Misunderstanding therein, we have thought fit (in the Language of a Creator) to dictate to the same Parliament the Heads of such Bills as we would then have pass'd into Acts.

1. Let the Civil as well as Religious Rights of all our Subjects receive their
Con-

Confirmation in such a Parliament (*Nemine Contradicente.*)

2. Let Consciences truly tender be indulged, (*of which Truth and Tenderneſs let the moſt oppoſite Opinions be Judges.*)

3. Let Property of every kind be better than ever ſecured. (*And let all the Mony, Arms, and Ammunition, Horſes and Black Cattel, Sheep and Goats, Corn and Meal, Bread and Beer, Wine and Brandy, Cakes and Ale, and all other Goods and Commodities, taken or plunder'd from any of our loving Subjects, for us or in our Name, or on account of our Pretences, be replevy'd and reſtored to the right Owners, in as good plight and condition as the ſame were at the time of the Caption; (neceſſary Uſage of ſpending or loſing, killing or ſpoiling, eating or drinking, or other neceſſary Wear and Tear, only excepted.)*)

4. Let there be a general Amneſty (*for all ſuch as love or fear us.*) And let it be therein expreſſly enacted, That all our Friends and Foes (*from the happy Moment of our own Turn ſer-*
ved)

ved) be for ever forgiven and forgotten.

But lest in the Hurry of other Business this so material Act of Oblivion should be forgotten, We do by these Presents under our Sign Manual (as good or better than any Act of Parliament) pardon, remit, and from the bottom of our Heart forgive, to all and every of our loving Subjects (who at or after our Landing shall come in to us, and remain with us till we depart from them) all and all manner of Treason by them committed, or to be committed, against the said present Regnant, his Crown, and Dignity, and all Forfeitures of Life or Member, Lands, Tenements, Goods or Chattels, which they or any of them have or may incur thereby; any Law or Statute against us or them to the contrary thereof, in any wise notwithstanding.

By such joint Endeavours of us (by our selves) in conjunction with our

C

Par-

Parliament, we may again hope to see the Peace and flourishing Estate of this Kingdom (a fourth time) restored ; (having herein so named the same thrice before.)

And if after all those good Wishes for our selves and them, we should be prevented in our so pious Intentions, we shall however have remaining with us, as a Cordial to our own Conscience, *That we can but leave them in the same Distraction and Confusion, into which we have brought them: And so bid them heartily farewell.*

And finally, lastly, and after all and every the Premises, and that no Persons may plead Ignorance thereof (*or gain any Knowledg thereby*) we do (*as far as our Writs will run*) require all Sheriffs of Shires, Stewarts of Stewartships, Magistrates of Burghs, Bailiffs of Bailiwicks, Constables of Constableships, Tything-men of Tything-ships, and Cryer-men of Cryer-ships, immediately upon the Receipt of this our most
Gra-

Gracious Declaration (or grievous Outcry for Loss of our Kingdoms) without Fraud or further Delay, and without Cryers Fees, to publish the same in the usual Places, and with the usual *O Yes's*, and other Forms and Ceremonies with which other Outcries for lost Goods have been customarily cry'd and proclaim'd; under pain of being proceeded against for failure thereof, and forfeiting the Benefit of this our General Pardon, contain'd in this our said most Gracious Declaration, brought with us from *Commercy* (as the Place of our last legal Settlement) or else made for us since our Landing (and antedated as of) the 25th of *October*, in the 15th Year of our Losses and Pretences.

F I N I S.

George Washington
to the President
of the United States
1793
The President
of the United States
Washington
D.C.

273

George Washington
to the President
of the United States
1793

